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# TRAIL & LANDSCAPE



*A Publication Concerned With  
Natural History and Conservation*

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

# TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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## The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

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**Objectives of the Club:** To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse the information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

**Club Publications:** THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, a quarterly devoted to reporting research in all fields of natural history relevant to Canada, and TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a quarterly providing articles on the natural history of the Ottawa Valley and on Club activities.

**Field Trips, Lectures and other natural history activities** are arranged for local members; see "Coming Events" in this issue.

**Membership Fees:** Individual (yearly) \$33    Sustaining (yearly) \$50  
Family (yearly) \$35    Life (one payment) \$500  
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# Welcome New Members

## Ottawa Area

Marc-Alexandre Beaulieu  
Patrick J. Blake & Family  
Gil L. Carrière  
Sholto F. & Liz M. Cole  
Rosie Cusson  
Connie E. Denyes  
Catherine Hessian & Family  
John W. Macdonald  
Jo Ann Mackenzie & Family  
Erin Murray  
Robyn N. Newhook & Family  
Barb & Neil Robertson  
Suzanne M. Skinner/M. Britton  
Elizabeth D. Thompson  
Université d'Ottawa  
Jenni Vik  
Andrew S. Williams

## Gatineau Area

Martine Lanoix & Family  
Brian J. Young & Family

Henry Steger  
Chair, Membership Committee  
November 2007

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# Gold Leaf Award Goes to Dr. Francis Cook

*Ronald E. Bedford*



*Francis receiving the Gold Leaf Award. Photo by Martin Lipman.*

On August 28 this year Dr. Francis Cook, Editor of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, was informed by the Awards Committee of the Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada (ANHMC) that he was to be the recipient of the inaugural ANHMC Gold Leaf Award. This award recognizes exceptional contributions to the study of museum-based natural history in Canada. The award was presented to Francis at a reception on September 25 in the Speaker's Reception Room, Centre Block, Parliament Hill.

The citation for the award reads as follows:

"While your museum-based contributions to herpetology in Canada are well-known,

and in themselves a very significant contribution to natural history in this country, the Awards Committee particularly wished to recognize your quarter century plus leading *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* (CFN), Canada's premier natural history journal. Through your unflagging commitment you have ensured that a Canadian outlet for new and significant contributions to Canadian natural history has continued to be available. Many of the contributors to CFN have carried out their work through museums in this country; many of Canada's now best known natural historians began their publishing careers with CFN and continue to recognize the journal as a significant outlet for their work."

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club heartily congratulates Francis on his receipt of this prestigious award. We are indebted to him for maintaining the high standard of *The CFN* which is recognized nationally and internationally for excellence in its field. Dr. Don McAlpine, Curator of Zoology at the New Brunswick Museum, says that for certain kinds of natural history research there is really no other outlet than *The CFN*. It is an honour, not only for Francis, but also for the Club which has published *The CFN* and its predecessors continually since 1880. The award recognizes the importance of *The CFN* to Canada and the special niche that it occupies amongst North American natural history publications.

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Mr Bill Cody  
Honorary Doctorate of Science  
McMaster University  
June 2, 2007

William James (Bill) Cody was born in Hamilton, Ontario in 1922. He grew up in Hamilton during the Depression. During summers, he worked on his Uncle Bruce's fruit farm near St. David's in the Niagara Peninsula. He always enjoyed the outdoors, but it was with the help of McMaster University's Professor Lulu Gaiser that his love for plants grew. Bill received his Bachelor's Degree from McMaster University in 1946.

That same year, Bill joined the Canada Department of Agriculture at the Central Experimental Farm, in Ottawa, as Junior Agricultural Assistant. He was subsequently promoted to Senior Agricultural Assistant, Technical Officer and then Research Assistant. His enthusiasm for the outdoors, led him to travel extensively during the summer months across nine provinces and two territories. During these

excursions, he collected over 35,000 plant specimens. He has published over 343 articles including books, scientific papers, and popular articles. He is Canada's leading expert on the flora of the Yukon and is an Honorary Research Associate with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Bill was appointed Curator of the Vascular Plant Herbarium in 1959. He held this position for 28 years. Under his supervision it became the largest vascular plant herbarium in Canada with more than one million specimens, including the thousands collected by him personally. The herbarium provides a basis for research and identification of economically important plants in Canada.

Officially retiring in 1987, after 41 years of service, Bill continues to go to the office. His expertise in identifying specimens and his knowledge is sought after by the younger generation of botanists. He remains an internationally recognized authority in Canada and continues to contribute to the development of the collection.

He joined the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club when he arrived in Ottawa in 1946. The position of Business Manager of a scientific journal, *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, has been his for over 50 years. His duties include managing finances, monitoring stock, billing for reprints and public relations.

Bill was married for 47 years to Lois and together they raised five children: David, Margaret, Leslie, Douglas and Gordon. Having sung in a Barber Shop Quartet and Church Choir, his joy of music is very evident. Bill's baritone voice can be heard resonating throughout the halls of his office and apartment building. He often has a pun or quip on the tip of his tongue.

In recent years, Bill had the opportunity to return to the Yukon four times. Each time, he took one of his children to help him collect and log specimens in order to determine range extensions and also to let them experience a place that had been a large part of his life.

Bill is very proud of his family heritage. His father, William MacPherson Cody, was the first appointed anesthetist to the Hamilton General Hospital. Also, his second cousin, 3 times removed, was William Frederick Cody, known to most as "Buffalo Bill" Cody, a famous hero of the American Wild West.

Among the tributes awarded to Bill are: the Lawson Medal, most prestigious award of the Canadian Botanical Association (1997); the Distinguished Technical Communication Award of the Society for Technical Communications (1997); Induction into the McMaster University Alumni Gallery (2002); The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal (2002); and the Yukon Biodiversity Awareness Award (2006).

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# In Memoriam

*Ronald E. Bedford*  
*Chairman, Publications Committee*

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club notes with sorrow the death of Dr. Lorraine C. Smith on September 10, 2007. We extend our sympathy to all of the Smith family. Lorraine and her husband Don were long-time members of the Club. In 1972 Lorraine accepted the appointment as Editor of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* upon the unanimous approval of Council at its meeting of September 11, 1972. Her predecessor, Dr. Theodore Mosquin, resigned as Editor in summer 1972 following his involvement in, and appointment as President of, the newly formed Canadian Nature Federation. Lorraine's first issue was Volume 86, No. 4 and her last was Volume 95, No. 3. During this 9-year period she edited the journal in exemplary fashion. She resigned in 1981 to pursue other interests.

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## In Memory of Eileen Evans: Dedication of the FWG Pergola

We invite all who knew Eileen Evans to join us at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden, for a dedication of the new pergola, in her memory. Eileen's family made a very generous donation on her behalf, to help fund this lovely new addition to the Interpretive Centre. Eileen was a valued friend of both the OFNC and the Fletcher Wildlife Garden. Please help us celebrate her memory and her legacy.

**Date:** Saturday, April 26, 2008

**Time:** 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** Fletcher Wildlife Garden, Interpretive Centre (Bldg. 138)

Refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP before April 18, 2008, so that we will know how many are going to attend. You may do so by phoning the FWG at 613-234-6767, or by emailing Christine at [vanessa@magma.ca](mailto:vanessa@magma.ca).

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# Conservation Matters

*Frank Pope*

## **Provincial Election**

The provincial election was the primary focus at the beginning of the quarter. The Committee thought it imperative that the various organizations concerned about nature be coordinated in some way to present a united voice on key issues in the election. To initiate action we identified what we considered key issues and forwarded them to the chairs of the Regional Council and the Ontario Nature head office. They agreed in principle but there was insufficient time to set up the procedure before the election. Subsequently, Ontario Nature came out with four priorities which they asked affiliated clubs and their members to promote among local candidates. The priorities were: 1. Green ways; 2. Boreal Forest; 3. Increased funding for the Ministries of Natural Resources and the Environment; and, 4. Environmental Education. On behalf of the Committee, the Chair, Stan Rosenbaum wrote an op-ed piece for the Citizen and we were pleased to see his letter published under a handsome photo of the man himself.

## **Larose Forest**

The United Counties of Prescott and Russell have hired Horizon Multiresources to produce a plan for the protection and development of the Larose Forest. The Club has an extensive inventory of species found in the Larose Forest and they asked us for details on rare species where we have GPS locations. This information is important in mapping new trails and potential logging areas. The report was due for release by the end of November. A community Forest Day is being planned for 2008, and the OFNC is a co-organizer with the United Counties of Prescott and Russell.

## **Marlborough Forest**

Ducks Unlimited held a reception at the Rogers Pond parking lot in the Marlborough Forest to announce a substantial donation from Giant Tiger augmented by other smaller donations. These funds will enable Ducks Unlimited to continue their wetland restoration and maintenance work in the forest. The event was attended by an array of dignitaries representing every organization with an interest in Marlborough Forest plus a bus load of school children from Almonte.

## **Ottawa Riverkeeper**

The Club was invited to a reception to show appreciation for all those who have contributed to the establishment of the Ottawa Riverkeeper. The Club made a

financial contribution at a critical time in the publication of their River Report which they really appreciated. Besides the River Report, noteworthy accomplishments to date include the establishment of a river watchers network and the garbage removal on Kettle Island. The Riverkeeper has been supported by 7,000 hours of volunteer labour.

#### **Leitrim update**

Ecojustice (formerly Sierra Legal), on behalf of the local chapter of the Sierra Club and Greenspace Alliance, has requested a judicial review of a decision by the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) which supported a development proposal. This move followed the refusal of the Chair of the OMB to reconsider an earlier decision. The judicial review would be conducted by a specialized administrative law court. The Club has offered to help defray the expenses of witnesses for this review if and when it happens.

#### **Nahanni Park Extension**

The federal government is considering the extension of the boundaries of Nahanni National Park. The OFNC's November monthly meeting featured a presentation by the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. The Club sent a letter to the Parks Establishment Officer for the Nahanni Expansion Working Group consultations, recommending an extension of the boundaries to include the entire watershed. Individual Club members also sent letters.

#### **National Capital Commission**

In an effort to better inform the public about issues affecting their lands, the National Capital Commission (NCC) has opened its meetings to the public. We welcome this move towards greater transparency. Of particular interest to us are Gatineau Park and NCC owned land outside Gatineau Park. The latter are designated National Interest Land Mass and Non National Interest Land Mass. In his 2007 article in *T&L* (Volume 41, Number 3) and on our web site, Irwin Dreeson, meticulously describes the lands outside Gatineau Park, policies affecting their management and sales and acquisitions of property over the past decade. He concludes with a critique of their management. This is a "must read" for people concerned about the future of green space owned by the NCC.

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# Winter Project: Bring Back Your Fading Algonquin Park Memories

*Robin Collins*

Our 15 year old son Brendan was preparing for a high school “Outdoor Ed” canoe trip to Algonquin Park in the autumn of 2007. During the process of buying gear, I was offering advice (that would be ignored) about the benefits of bringing a plastic poncho. I had photographic evidence that ponchos were perfectly comfortable, if not fashionable. That started me thinking about my boxes of slides of Macoun Club canoe trips to Algonquin Park in the early 1970s. Those were formative excursions that I have never forgotten, but how did those Kodachromes and Agfachromes stand up?

When I pulled them out, I discovered what a lot of people probably already know—unless you take good care of your slides, the bulk of them may have faded with colours seriously compromised.

We have a transparency scanner where I work for scanning SEM (scanning electron microscope) negatives, so I brought a few 35mm slides in. I started scanning a few to what seemed a reasonable size (3000 dpi (dots per inch) is what you should consider as a minimum scan resolution if you want to print 11x14 inch high quality prints some day).<sup>1</sup> After playing a bit in Photoshop, I found the images retained much of their original quality. Surprisingly good, considering the overall blue cast I was starting with.<sup>2</sup>

So how long does all this take? Start to finish, once you get the knack, it might require 10 to 30 minutes a slide (depending on how much dust you have to “heal”). Sixty slides could be massaged into reasonable shape in 10-30 hours. If you have

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<sup>1</sup> To test, print off an 8x10 image on your inkjet printer or email a file to a professional lab for processing.

<sup>2</sup> As a “before” and “after” comparison doesn’t render well here in black and white, I have posted a couple of examples for readers to look at. Search for “Macoun Field Club” group on-line in Facebook.

hundreds or thousands of slides, you better get started. Do the “scan” and “burn to”—you can always leave the touching up to another day.

### **Documentation and Media**

Rob Lee, who is well known to the OFNC and Macoun Club, also canoed through some of those 1970s Macoun Club trips. He is a convert to digital photography as many of us now are, but he believes transparencies and properly stored prints are a better option in some ways than other archival methods.<sup>3</sup>

“I learned early on by sad experience,” he says, “that daylight would make my images fade and take on a bluish tinge, so I store everything in dark boxes and drawers.” He has taken good care of his own slides, and yet he does see evidence of degradation to his father’s slides from the 1950s. Some are contaminated by moulds growing on the organic dies.

But there’s another problem. Amateur photographers rarely properly label their growing inventory. They may save and re-save photos and the copies will double and triple but, as Lee points out: “Eventually, names, locations, and purpose fade from the memory and the images become almost useless.”

Irksome limitations are inherent to all technologies. Prints made from slides displayed on the wall will fade in a few decades, but kept in the dark they will last “forever” on acid-free paper. So you wonder if it will ever be safe to throw out your trays of fading slides once you’ve scanned and saved everything digitally. A digital copy can be printed off endlessly. Yet it’s still a good bet to keep your original slides as long as you have space. Store them properly in the dark and keep them dry and away from moulds. Then print copies of the very best images you have onto archival quality photo paper. Display them and enjoy them.

Digitize everything, label properly and transfer your new digital collection into the most up to date digital medium available, but only when it makes sense. It needs to be cheap enough to do and look like it’s a format that is going to last. Do not use rewritable optical media for archiving. Burn them onto write-once optical disks and make at least one extra copy. Recordable CDs and DVDs are supposed to have a 100-200 year “or longer” life expectancy, but that is uncertain. In any case, just like for film and prints, you will need to keep your disks cool, dry and out of the light. Finally, prepare to copy them again every decade or two onto whichever new medium becomes the new (and hopefully more reliable) standard. Nothing lasts forever.

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<sup>3</sup> For a remarkable example of a well-preserved kodachrome, see Chalmers Butterfield’s 1949 image “London.” You can view it online in Wikipedia.

### Scanners and resolution

Several scanners are available that scan slides and negatives. Look for something that can save at least 3200 dpi optically. Borrow one if you can because once this job is done you probably won't need the slide scanner attachment ever again. You can buy "photo" scanners in the \$200-\$250 range with 3200 to 4800 optical resolution and they will give you very good quality prints and more than what you need to project crisp images onto a large high definition flat screen television. (Now that's how I'd like to see my canoe trips!)



*Slide scanning setup.*

The law of diminishing returns still prevails. While a digital monitor cannot give you the full pixel range of a projected kodachrome slide, most people won't notice. If you want to convert your old slides quickly, you may be happy with 5 Megabyte images ready in five minutes. But you don't know what you'll use your digital collection for in the future. The safest bet is to save the largest file you think you'll ever need. If you can, save your scans as uncompressed 8-10 Megabyte ".tiff" files. That is a very good quality archival choice. You can save almost 500 images of that size on a standard recordable DVD.

Photo manipulation software will remove stubborn dust particles or scratches that don't blow off, and will correct colour, hue, contrast, and brightness. In newer versions of Photoshop, for instance, you can begin with shadow/highlight adjustment and auto colour correction, and then use the spot healing brush to remove dust. Some scanner vendors include "ICE" technology that automates the film "cleaning" process. But you don't actually have to do all the image massaging until you want to print or build a slide show, possibly years down the road. The important thing is to scan and burn to disk while your slides still have something to say.

Consider making slide scanning one of this winter's projects. You don't have to do it all at once. As you go along, email some of your pictures to friends and family. Then this spring or summer, get back to exploring Algonquin Park with your kids or your old paddling companions. These days, you might find them all on Facebook.

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# Eastern Chipmunks at the FWG

*Christine Hanrahan*

## Introduction

The Sciuridae, or squirrel family, is well represented at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden (FWG) where the four common species of eastern Ontario can be found. The Eastern Chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*) is the smallest member of the family,



*Chipmunk at FWG. Photo by C. Hanrahan.*

recognized by its reddish fur and five dark stripes along its back. A common and abundant species across its range, this diurnal squirrel is very clever at avoiding detection when needs be.

While we generally think of this species in connection with deciduous woodlands, they are also found in mixed forests and commonly in

residential areas. The FWG provides good habitat for this little ground squirrel, with an abundant food supply and numerous places to build their protective burrows.

Many species of chipmunks occur across North America, all bearing a striking resemblance to each other in terms of colouration and pattern. Our Eastern Chipmunk is the largest species, with an average weight of about 100 g and average length of 27 cm (Woods 1980, Forsyth 1985).

## Habits

While not as vocal as the Red Squirrel, chipmunks do emit a bird-like 'chip' (from which they take their name), as well as squeaks or squeals when agitated. It might be easy enough at first to confuse the sounds made by Red Squirrels and chipmunks, but with a little familiarity, the differences are soon apparent. FWG is a good place to

learn these different vocalizations because chipmunks and red squirrels are usually quite noticeable.

Chipmunks are easy prey for many creatures. At the FWG, their biggest enemies are hawks, owls, foxes, weasels (when present), dogs and the occasional domestic cat which is sometimes dumped at the garden. Their vulnerability leads them to stay close to places offering good protection, such as brush piles, the rock walls in the Backyard Garden, the rock piles in the Butterfly Meadow, and dense shrubs.

No doubt many of us have noticed at one time or another that chipmunks seem to vanish in mid-summer. I was puzzled the first time I became aware of this and wondered if they had all been killed off. Yet by fall they were much in evidence again. In the past, authorities have wondered whether chipmunks enter a sort of aestivation during the hottest time of the year. This has now been discounted and biologists believe that their seeming absence is in part due to the females being busy giving birth to their second brood. Since those first days when I thought we'd lost our entire population of chipmunks, I've found that they are more difficult to locate because they stick to heavy shade, and they also seem to be more active and therefore more visible earlier and later in the day, but they are certainly present.

Although very efficient at climbing trees, chipmunks are almost entirely dependent on an underground network of burrows. These burrows are important to chipmunks year round, not only as natal sites, but for sleeping, food storage, protection from the elements, and hibernation. Most authorities agree that chipmunks will maintain the same burrow for their entire life span. Forsyth (1985) says "*it enlarges its tunnel system each year so that by the end of its two-to-five year life, it has dug an extensive network of side tunnels in addition to the main one.*"

In the Dominion Arboretum, adjacent to the FWG, I watched a chipmunk make multiple trips between a chokeberry shrub (*Aronia* sp.) and its burrow about three metres away. This particular burrow appeared to be freshly dug as it had telltale signs of debris and dirt around its entrance. In fact, it may not have been a main entrance at all, but rather what Woods (1980) and Forsyth (1985) describe as "work holes." Woods says these holes are used to "*dispose of the subsoil*" displaced by digging. When completed, the hole is apparently sealed up. At any rate, the chipmunk I watched was certainly making good use of this burrow. It may be that some of the chipmunk holes I've found in the open are also "work holes." Some of these, down which I have seen chipmunks vanish, have been located in the middle of the Bill Holland Trail or in a busy area near the Backyard Garden. None of these holes remain for any length of time and perhaps they have been 'plugged' or sealed up as noted.

### **Territory**

Chipmunks are far less aggressive than many species and tolerate others of their kind in very close proximity. Woods (1980) notes that the home range for a male is roughly 0.20 ha and for a female is 0.10 ha. Population density depends on many variables including food supply and competition from other species. Woods suggests that an "ideal habitat" may contain 25 adults per hectare. At FWG, this would mean an astonishing 125 animals on our 5-hectare site. Competition for food (with other species), the relatively high disturbance levels from humans and dogs, and the presence of predators (dogs, raptors, foxes) all combine to keep populations relatively low at the garden. However, no real census of this species at FWG has been done, and efforts to track numbers may reveal a higher density than previously thought.

It appears that there may be between 6-10 chipmunks living at FWG at any given time. Numbers vary of course, and there will be a temporary increase when youngsters are born, but the mortality rate is high and as far as I can determine, we usually end up with approximately the same number of animals by summer's end.

### **Feeding Habits**

Chipmunks, almost more than any of the other squirrels, seem preoccupied with the business of gathering food. As with many rodents, vegetable matter forms a big part of their diet. Seeds are the preferred food, but nuts, bulbs, berries, fruit, frogs, salamanders and invertebrates are important food sources. I remember reading somewhere that they will also take bird eggs and nestlings.

Although usually encountered running over the ground, along fallen logs, on top of fences and brush piles, chipmunks are also highly arboreal, adept at climbing trees to reach food sources. At the FWG, I have often watched them climbing our many crabapple trees (*Malus* spp.) in the fall to feed heavily



*Chipmunk eating Cup-plant seeds. Photo by C. Hanrahan.*

on the fruit. They are skilful at separating the fruit from the seed which then gets stored in their cheek pouch and eventually taken to their underground food cache. I have also watched them eating the seeds of Manitoba maple (*Acer negundo*) and sumac (*Rhus typhina*), acorns of red oak (*Quercus rubra*), and of course seeds that have fallen from the two FWG bird feeders.

One fall, I observed a chipmunk using an old Red-winged Blackbird nest in a hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp.) to store the haw fruit. When I went back a few days later, the fruit had been removed. I am guessing that he was using the nest to stash the fruit which was being picked off at a good speed, and then later transported it to his food cache. One day in late summer 2006, I discovered a dead chipmunk on the entrance road into FWG, presumably hit by a car. Its cheek pouches were stuffed with seeds (unidentified) to such an extent that its head looked double its normal size.

Chipmunks are ingenious in their food storage. I've heard that they separate their sleeping quarters from their food storage area, or larder. However, some biologists believe that they build their leafy winter nests on **top** of their food supply (Woods 1980, Anderson and Stephens 2002). They spend a huge amount of time and energy stockpiling food, with good reason. A well provisioned larder means the difference between surviving the winter or perishing from starvation. Although chipmunks hibernate (more about this below), they wake periodically to feed. According to Woods (1980), this periodic awakening is necessary since chipmunks are "*ill-equipped to withstand a long cold siege without food as he doesn't have a heavy layer of fat like some of the other Sciuridae.*" Furthermore, they often emerge from hibernation before food becomes readily available and must rely on their larder to sustain them.

### **Reproduction**

Unlike red and grey squirrels, which build large bulky nests or make very obvious use of cavities, chipmunk nests are built underground at the end of a long burrow. It can be difficult to find the entrance to such burrows because they are often hidden under brush piles, rock piles, shrubs or other places which afford protective cover. At the FWG I have found very few, but those I have encountered have been under brush piles, under downed logs, and under particularly dense shrubbery. More often than not, it is sheer luck which has allowed me to find the entrance to a burrow, rather than any systematic searching!

According to Forsyth (1985), chipmunks usually have two litters a year, one in the spring and one in mid-summer. With an average litter size of four or five young, it is easy to see how chipmunks could become one of the most abundant animals at FWG. However, as noted elsewhere, their numbers appear to be more or less stable (so far

as we can determine) at 6-10 animals. I have seen very few young animals at FWG and those usually in early to mid-June. Like all young animals, they are a delight to see.

The only way to get a look at a chipmunk nest would be to locate a burrow and dig up a wide area in order to try and expose the natal site. However, I don't recommend that and certainly would not do it myself. Nonetheless, some biologists who have studied chipmunk burrows and nest sites give us some idea of what they are like. Woods



*Chipmunk den entrance. Photo by C. Hanrahan.*

(1980) says that the tunnel descends sharply for the first 15-20 cm and then a more gradual descent to a depth of about 65 cm. The tunnel "*may continue parallel to the surface for up to 3 m before it terminates in an oval-shaped sleeping chamber*" which is roughly 32 cm in diameter and lined with leaves.

Most rodents in the wild live very short lives. It has been estimated that chipmunks have an average life span of three years (Banfield 1974, Woods 1980). Chipmunks born in the spring are said to have a much better chance of surviving the winter than chipmunks born in late summer. This makes sense, for these latter animals would have far less time to adequately prepare for winter.

### Winter

By late summer, chipmunks are busier than ever gathering food in preparation for the coming winter. They seem less concerned with concealment and more concerned with getting the food into storage. Forsyth (1985) says that they will store about 1.5 gallons of food which includes anything that stores well such as seeds, nuts, and plant tubers.

Chipmunks hibernate during the colder months, although this is not so much sleeping the winter away, as entering a state of torpor from which they periodically awaken in order to eat. Emerging from this torpid state would not be immediate, because their

body functions slow down during this time. Banfield (1974) comments that when waking from torpor “*it trembles, stiffly unrolls, and staggers about, often with its eyes shut.*”

Unlike red and grey squirrels, they don’t develop a thicker coat, and unlike many animals who remain active year-round, they do not fatten up for the winter. All their energy goes into ensuring their larder is full so that they can feed during the winter without having to expend valuable energy searching for food. On particularly warm winter days, you may even see the occasional chipmunk roaming around the garden, but this is by no means common.

You might think that being deep underground would guarantee safety, but weasels are known to enter chipmunk burrows and kill the animals— very easy prey, particularly if still in torpor. Whether the Short-tailed Weasel we had around the garden a few years back ever did this is not known, but my guess would be that such a clever animal would make full use of all food sources!

By about mid-March, particularly if the winter has been fairly mild, we can expect to see chipmunks once again scampering around the FWG.

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#### **Additional reading:**

- Wishner, Lawrence. 1982. *Eastern Chipmunks. Secrets of their solitary lives*. Smithsonian Institution Press, 144 pp.

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# How to Take a Trip

Frederick W. Schueler<sup>1</sup>

For those who rejoice in the reality of the world, the sadness of modern transportation is almost overwhelming. Literal myriads rush, every day, between thousands of places without noticing or recording what they've driven past, and even those who would rather move at a better-documented pace are often hurried along by pressing obligations. Unless in a serious emergency, a single-purpose trip is always partially wasted. Such a trip desecrates the places visited by burning fossil fuel and taking up human time for a purely ephemeral end.

As we all drive along, we each make hundreds of species-level identifications every minute, and we think, or should be thinking, about the landscape, biotic, and cultural patterns that these organisms are affected by or participate in. If these thoughts are framed, as they ought to be, as falsifiable hypotheses, today's patterns and the changes the hypotheses predict need to be preserved so that the present distribution of species can be documented, and the usefulness of the hypotheses can be tested. Every routine or repeated trip should acquire some long-term data, both to test hypotheses and to offset the human incapacity for noticing gradual change, and every irregular trip should explore and document the distribution of some species or phenomenon or the characteristics of some site. No one is likely to ever meet all these high goals, but if they are not kept in mind they are not going to be met accidentally.

In September 2006 I had the opportunity to take a relatively unhurried trip to Syracuse, New York, to visit family, and I've annotated the narrative of this trip as an example of our methods, continuing the series of *Trail & Landscape* articles outlining our techniques (Schueler, F.W., Aleta Karstad, Jamie Proctor, and Ryan Hawke. 2007. **How to 'do' a bridge.** *T&L* 41(1):38-49; Schueler, F.W. 2000. **Navigating as Naturalists with the Global Positioning System.** *T&L* 34(1):35-40; Karstad, Aleta. 2000. **Drawing from Life.** *T&L* 34(3):110-116).

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Geographic co-ordinates in the following narrative (all in WGS 84 datum) are a combination of new waypoints (Garmin eTrex Legend) and previously recorded locations. The co-ordinates can be used to view the sites on google maps, or other internet map systems, by inserting the decimal degrees as the location (e.g. 44.87156°N 75.70095°W for a nice view of our backyard).

### EOBase Narrative <sup>2</sup>:

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1 September 2006

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Canada: Ontario: Grenville County: Oxford-on-Rideau: **Bishops Mills, S side (Schuelers)**. 31B/13, 44.87156°N 75.70095°W. TIME: 1707 (EDT). AIR TEMP: 22°C, sunny, Beaufort moderate breeze. HABITAT: rural village, shallow soil limestone plain. OBSERVER: Frederick W. Schueler, Aleta Karstad Schueler. 2006/173/d, *Corvus corax* (raven) (bird). 1 calling, heard, seen. 'ark-ark-ark' calls, seen flying low S of village.

*\* we never heard or saw ravens in Grenville County until the early 1990s, so in order to track patterns in their activities, both secular and seasonal, we record every raven we see or hear.*

(same location) TIME: 1743. AIR TEMP: 21°C, cloudy, Beaufort gentle breeze. OBSERVER: Frederick W. Schueler. focuslog, **departure** (event). natural history, drive. 171406 km, to Syracuse. ROUTE: Buker, Bolton. Kyle, Branch, N. Augusta rds, Highway 401, 181, 1481, I690, Midler Ave, etc.

moved 3.4 km SSW.

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<sup>2</sup> This narrative is recounted as slightly edited output from what's become my personal database system (we'd named it "EOBase" both as a contraction of 'Eastern Ontario Database. . .' and in the hope that it [would] represent a dawning of ecological and biotic awareness among the People of Eastern Ontario."—F W. Schueler & Anita Miles. 2000. *Establishing EOBase, a Database of Eastern Ontario Natural History Collections & Observations, at the Eastern Ontario Biodiversity Museum*. Unpublished report to the Eastern Ontario Model Forest, 8 April 2000). The expected fellow users of this system haven't materialized, and the "system isn't ready for publication yet, but if you'd like to be a fellow-user, contact us" (Schueler, F.W., and Aleta Karstad: 2004. *theNatureJournal Handbook*. 42 pp. Bishops Mills Natural History Centre and Little Ray's Reptile Zoo).

Wolford: Bolton Road, 3 km SSW Bishops Mills. 44.84266°N 75.71578°W. TIME: 1755. AIR TEMP: 21°C, cloudy, Beaufort gentle breeze. HABITAT: road through *Thuja* woods and planted Jack Pine barrens. 2006/173/e, no observation (event). survey, driveby. NO: *Lepus americanus* AOR/DOR, road newly graded and gravelly.

*\* Numbers of Snowshoe Hares, Lepus americanus, wax and wane in the famous ten-year cycle of boreal wildlife. It's astonishing enough that hare populations should cycle with this regularity. However, it's more astonishing that these cycles should be synchronous within 1-2 years all across boreal Canada and Alaska, and even more astonishing that they should be "highly positively correlated ( $P < 0.0001$ ) with sunspot maxima 4 yr previously" (Sinclair, et al. 1993. Can the solar cycle and climate synchronize the snowshoe hare cycle in Canada? Evidence from tree rings and ice cores. American Naturalist 141(2)173-198. <http://hdl.handle.net/1807/443>). It seems that the cycles result from the hares' interactions with food supply and predators, synchronized across the continent by weather differences that result from the sunspot cycle. Since we've been living in Bishops Mills, there have been sunspot maxima in 1979, 1989, and 2000, each followed by a decline in hare populations within a few years. The best place to see hares is on the south end of Bolton Road, through the cedar woods and Jack Pine plantations of Limerick Forest, and we monitor their abundance by counting the number we see each time we drive this road on the way to North Augusta or Brockville.*

moved 22.0 km S.

Leeds County: Elizabethtown: Long Swamp at N. Augusta Road. 31B/12, 44.64468°N 75.70452°W. TIME: 1818. AIR TEMP: circa 20°C, cloudy, breezy. HABITAT: road through flooded Red Maple swamp. 2006/173/f, visit (event). survey, driveby. very green, including bed of pools with no visible water.

*\* this is the site where the late Mike Rankin first noticed terrestrial amplexus in Wood Frogs (Rana sylvatica; Schueler, F.W. and R. Michael Rankin 1982. Terrestrial amplexus in the Wood Frog, Rana sylvatica. Canadian Field-Naturalist 96:348-349), and one of our long-term monitoring sites for the frequency of mid-dorsal striping in Wood Frogs. When the Wood Frogs aren't breeding, we notice the level of the water in their ponds as an index of regional wetness. In May 2006, and again in 2007, we first saw geese and goslings (Branta canadensis) here, standing right along the road only a couple of metres from the traffic.*

moved 39.8 km SW.

USA: New York: Jefferson County: Orleans: **Wellesley Is boundary bridge, US/Canada border**. 31B/5, 44.34794°N 75.98413°W. TIME: 1910. AIR TEMP: circa 20°C, cloudy, breezy. HABITAT: US Customs toll gate. 2006/173/g, *Homo sapiens* (human people) (mammal). adult, male, drive. "Do you own the car?" A new class of US Customs off-the-wall remark, followed by an inspection of popcorn bags in the back of the car, and an inquiry into the mechanism of action of a plant press.

*\* it has often been speculated, from the erratic questions they ask of travellers, that the US Customs office at the Thousand Islands constitutes an independent Republic of Comedy. . .*

moved 22.1 km SSE.

**181/3.1 km S NY 411**. 31B/4, 44.16375°N 75.87956°W. TIME: 1930ca. AIR TEMP: circa 20°C, overcast, breezy. HABITAT: superhwy roadside. 2006/173/h, visit (event). natural history, drive. wide stretches of roadside have recently been mowed by rotary blades on a tractor, as if making a hayfield into a lawn (though this has been going on for 40 years), leaving a tousled blanket of unruly clippings on the wide medians and margins of the highway. This gives a very different effect from the 'let it go' effect along Ontario series 400 highways, and 181 south of Syracuse, but I haven't been paying enough attention to say what's really happening along the Ontario highways. Here the mowing comes right up to the individual trees, leaving dense closely mowed-around patches of *Typha* (cattail) and *Phragmites* (reed) in the low areas—but there's not much. It's safe to record when you're a single driver four days late for an appointment, or, as my mother would reckon it, a month or more late.

moved 126.7 km S.

New York: Onondaga County: Syracuse: **Finlayson-Schuelers, 118 Shirley Road**. 30N/1, 43.03592°N 76.10431°W. TIME: 2104. 2006/173/i, arrival (event). personal, drive. WAYPT/002, too whoofed to take an air temperature.

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2 September 2006

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USA: New York: Onondaga County: Syracuse: **Finlayson-Schuelers, 118 Shirley Road**. 30N/1, 43.03592°N 76.10431°W. TIME: 1135. AIR TEMP: circa 17°C, steady rain. OBSERVER: Frederick W. Schueler, Theodore Finlayson-Schueler, Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler. 2006/174/-, departure (event). personal, drive. in Ted and Jeannes's car to Cortland.

moved 50.3 km S.

New York: Cortland County: **Cortland College football field, 1 km N Munsons Corners.** 30K/9, 42.58926°N 76.20255°W. TIME: 1235-1316. AIR TEMP: 16°C, overcast, windy. HABITAT: small-stadium football field. 2006/174/b, visit (event). personal, sit. WAYPT/003, watched scrimmage including Brian Finlayson-Schueler.

moved 3.3 km NE.

Cortland: **W Branch Tioughnioga River, just upstream NY 13 bridge.** 42.60678°N 76.16980°W. TIME: 1655-1710. AIR TEMP: 15.5°C, overcast, windy. HABITAT: small clay-turbid gravel-bed river, dense-herb/wooded/parkinglot banks. OBSERVER: Frederick W. Schueler. 2006/174/ca, *Polygonum cuspidatum* (Japanese Knotweed) (plant). codominant herb, in bloom, seen. dense stands in bloom along banks. This is the 24-hr shopping centre parking lot in Cortland, where we launched the canoes for our trip down the Tioughnioga in 2003. I walked along the banks looking for drift, in a greenness that hadn't been much disturbed by the recent flooding, and to which my meagre notes don't do much justice:

LIST: *Alliaria petiolata* (Garlic Mustard), some among other vegetation at upstream end of area;  
*Solidago* (goldenrod), clumps in bloom on banks;  
*Dipsacus sylvestris* (Common Teasel), scattered plants past bloom;  
*Arctium lappa* (Great Burdock), the only burdock species here;  
*Convolvulus* (bindweed), in bloom draped over bushes;  
*Helianthus tuberosus* (Jerusalem Artichoke), clumps in bloom;  
*Impatiens capensis* (Spotted Jewelweed), in bloom under NY 13 bridge;  
*Impatiens pallida* (Pale Jewelweed), in bloom under NY 13 bridge.

moved 0.3 km ENE.

**W Branch Tioughnioga River, just downstream NY 13 bridge.** 42.60746°N 76.16668°W. TIME: 1715. AIR TEMP: 15.5°C, overcast, windy. HABITAT: small clay-turbid gravel-bed river, dense-herb/wooded/parkinglot banks. 2006/174/d, *Mollusca* (mollusc). shell, drift, specimen. WAYPT/004, small patch of eddy drift at foot of steep W bank. The noised-about flooding in the rivers south of Syracuse was mostly south of here, and while the water level is still seasonally high, it has fallen only 50 cm from the crest here, and this was the only patch of drift I saw. It was at the foot of a steep 6 m-high bank netted with *Vitis* (grape) and *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (Virginia Creeper) which I descended without mishap. No shells were seen in the sample at the time of collection.



# OFNC



**PLACE:** St. Basil's Church  
Enter from Maitland Avenue (east side),  
just north of the Queensway (a 7 minute walk).

**BUS ACCESS:** Take bus number 85 (which passes along Carling Avenue) and get off at Maitland Avenue. Walk south on Maitland (towards the Queensway) for 0.5km. St. Basil's is on your left (east side).

Or take bus number 156, which passes along Maitland and stops near St. Basil's.

**RESERVATIONS:** To order tickets, fill in the Order Form and send it along with a cheque before 18 April 2008 to:

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club  
Box 35069 Westgate P.O.  
Ottawa, ON, K1Z 1A2

A limited number of tickets will be available (at the door) on 26 April 2008

# SOIRÉE

## Wine & Cheese Party Saturday, 26 April 2008, at 7:30 p.m.

- Selection of wines
- Non-alcoholic punch
- Cheese & crackers
- Cookies & cake
- Tea, Coffee
- Fruit

Join us for some fun at our annual festive evening and mingle with fellow naturalists.

Celebrate with the honoured winners of our Annual Awards.

Bid on items at our Silent and Live Auction

(For donations of natural history books and other items for silent auction  
call Fenja at 613-723-2054 for details or pickup.)

All our photographers and artists are invited to exhibit their works.

Prizes will be awarded to the "Peoples Choice."

Mounted pictures are preferred. Un-mounted photographs (4"x 6" minimum)  
are acceptable providing we can mount these temporarily onto Bristol board.  
Exhibits may be brought to St. Basil's between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. on the  
day of the Soirée and taken away at the end of the evening. If you have any  
questions concerning transporting these items, phone Phil Jeffreys (613-721-0139).

Children of OFNC members (in primary or high school) as well as members  
of the Macoun Field Club are invited to bring their own natural history displays.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (613) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you expect to exhibit photographs or art? Yes No Maybe

Will your child/children be preparing an exhibit? Yes No Maybe

Tickets Required: Adult(s)..... @ \$10.00; Child (under 18) .....@ \$4.00

CHEQUE ENCLOSED FOR \$.....



\* As the hosts of the Canadian Library of Drifted Material, we maintain that it's an inexpensive and appropriate form of ecological monitoring to pick up, whenever possible, samples of shells and other material washed onto the shores of streams after floods and spates. Here we were upstream of the major recent flooding of the Tioughnioga, and there's no great concentration of shells in the drift, but having climbed down this steep bank, I wasn't about to climb back up without a sample.

moved 47.9 km N.

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4 September 2006

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USA: New York: Onondaga County: Syracuse: **Finlayson-Schuelers, 118 Shirley Road**. 30N/1, 43.03592°N 76.10431°W. TIME: 1104. AIR TEMP: circa 18°C, overcast, calm. OBSERVER: Frederick W. Schueler, Louise S. Schueler. 2006/174/-, **departure** (event). personal, drive. in LSS's car to Dot Fontaine's to visit.

moved 1.8 km WSW.

**Dot Fontaine's, 115 Terrace Road**. 30N/1, 43.03194°N 76.12535°W. TIME: 1130-1231. HABITAT: big-tree residential woodland on hillside. OBSERVER: Frederick W. Schueler. 2006/174/e, cf *Albatrellus ovinus* (Sheep Polypore) (fungus). circa 12 in fruit, specimen. WAYPT/005, grown from roots of dead maple in shaded lawn. Polypore type mushrooms, stalked but with a smooth underside at first, gradually developing a pored underside (which is white in both young and mature specimens). Initially they have the top of the cap recurved under the margin, cap a mid-brown, matte, stipe withy, cap spreading out to a wide *Russula* shape as it matures and is chewed by chipmunks. Growing through soil up from the roots of a dead maple.

\* a visit to a friend of my Mother's to look at the collection of tourist shells she's down-sizing, and to see these mystery mushrooms in her yard. They match description and internet images of *Albatrellus ovinus*—and smelled somewhere between rotten meat and rotten potatoes as the specimen decayed.

moved 1.8 km ENE.

Syracuse: **Finlayson-Schuelers, 118 Shirley Road**. 30N/1, 43.03592°N 76.10431°W. TIME: 1830. AIR TEMP: circa 16°C, cloudy, sunset, Beaufort light air. HABITAT: knolly clay-lawn exotic tree and shrub residential savannah. 2006/174/fa, *Thuja occidentalis* (Eastern White Cedar) (plant). 1 tree, in fruit, seen. tree in lawn so thick with cones that they cover 50% of crown when viewed from some angles.

(same location and time). 2006/174/fb, *Alliaria petiolata* (Garlic Mustard) (plant). few herb, seen. 1<sup>st</sup> yr plants peeping out from under bushes and none in fruit on Finlayson-Schueler land, though there are a few stems of pods right across the boundary to the N.

*\* at Ted and Jeanne's we're tracking the status of the invasive Garlic Mustard, which we tried to wipe out on their lot during a visit in the spring, and it's always interesting to record the cone crops of trees that have more-than-annual cycles of fruiting.*

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5 September 2006

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USA: New York: Onondaga County: Syracuse: **Finlayson-Schuelers, 118 Shirley Road.** 30N/1, 43.03592°N 76.10431°W. TIME: 1421. AIR TEMP: circa 21°C, overcast, calm. OBSERVER: Frederick W. Schueler. focuslog, **departure** (event). natural history, drive. 171651 km, to Bishops Mills. This morning, Sandy, the rescued abused dog of the house, ate my supply of anti-hypoglycaemic Fig Newtons. Jeanne went off to her first day of the fall as an itinerant school psychologist, Ted biked off as a graduate student and teaching assistant, Sophie went out to pedal around, and Kusan slept off the jet lag from Korea, as I got ready to head north. My mother is overjoyed that I've been here for so long, though I can't see what I've done to provoke any enthusiasm.

As I packed it became clearer and clearer that my wallet wasn't in any of the places it might have been, and after three hours of meticulously re-searching every crevice in my effects, Jeanne (who'd been phoned in case I'd left it in the car we took to Cortland), sent Sophie to the basement laundry room to search a plastic bin of Brian's clothes that Jeanne and Ted had removed from the vicinity of the couch I slept on. *Voila!* But it was too late to do US 11 for Unionids and also be back home by supper time, as I'd planned.

moved 22.0 km N.

**Oneida Lake parking area, 0.2 km WNW 181/Bartell Road.** 43.23281°N 76.13096°W. TIME: 1454-1620. AIR TEMP: 20°C, overcast, calm. HABITAT: commuter parking lot in *Phragmites*/brushy lakeside near superhwy and retail strip. 2006/175/a, **visit** (event). natural history, drive, walk. WAYPT/006, stopped to check out western Oneida L. This is 0.7 km S of the 181 Oneida Lake bridge. *Phragmites australis* (Common Reed) here are dense tall purple-headed SUBSPECIES: *australis* clumps mostly in the low areas or ditches along the highway and parking lot—none along the shores of the lake (yet?).

There's a paved path down to the 'fishing access' which crosses a channel under the interstate—bare rocky bottom under the spans, but no visible *Dreissena* (Zebra Mussel) or other animal life—I didn't enter the water, so observation is from shore. The path branches out to end at little round circular areas, and fishing is evidently done from the slab and boulder armouring of the shores of the highway embankment. There are paths along these that mostly follow the slabs, but sometimes detour onto the slope where the bushes are particularly dense. I walked up the west (bay) side of the embankment.

*\* Interstate Highway 81 clips off the western end of Onieda Lake, just above its outlet into the Oswego River. We've driven this causeway hundreds of times, but we've never stopped to see what the bay at the west end of this shallow eutrophic lake, reputed to be crowded by invasive Water Chestnut, is like. According to the map, the county boundary runs along the south shore of the lake, so I'm attributing this site to Onondaga County, and those on the causeway to Oswego County.*

moved 0.5 km N.

New York: Oswego County: **W side Oneida L/I81 causeway, 0.6 km NNW I81/Bartell Road.** 43.23715°N 76.13049°W. TIME: 1525. AIR TEMP: 21.5°C, overcast, calm. HABITAT: slab-boulder armoured shore of superhwy causeway through shallow weedy lake. 2006/175/ba, **Mollusca** (mollusc). shell, drift, specimen. WAYPT/007, sparse drift along 500 m of causeway. I walked to a big cottonwood, most of the way to the main channel, but didn't go all the way to the bridge. The waypoint is in a slightly sheltered nook, where the drift hadn't been trampled, but much of the drift is from along the causeway to the south.

There were signs that there'd been a considerable quantity of drift blown up on shore in the spring, but also that the shells had dissolved substantially where it was even a bit moist—now what's most conspicuous is *Trapa* fruits, which had ridden even higher than styrofoam and were large enough to lodge among the rocks. Plastic was mostly represented in the drift by styrofoam and other bait containers, with floats, monofilament line and other angling gear making up a second element.

(same location and time). 2006/175/bb, *Trapa natans* (Water Chestnut) (plant). 1/common herb, in fruit, drift, specimen. fruits from spring drift and tiny washed up rosette plant. It's possible that there are more plants offshore (perhaps the dominant species over much of the bay), swathed in algae and *Lemna minor* (Common Duckweed), but if there was I couldn't make them out, and didn't wade.

(same location and time). 2006/175/bc, *Lythrum salicaria* (Purple Loosestrife) (plant). common herb, in bloom, prey of predator, drift, specimen. stunted large

shrubby plants among rocks. Plants riddled and stunted by apparent *Galarucella* herbivory.

*\* documenting that the "Loosestrife Beetles" are doing their work here, just as they are around home.*

**W side Oncida L/I81 causeway, 0.6 km NNW I81/Bartell Road.** 43.23697°N 76.13049°W. TIME: 1539. AIR TEMP: 21.5°C, overcast, calm. HABITAT: slab-boulder armoured shore of superhwy causeway through shallow weedy lake. 2006/175/ca, *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (Buttonbush) (plant). 1 shrub, in fruit, specimen. WAYPT/008, a 2 m shrub and little outlying sprouts. This was the only one seen along 500 m of shore—the big leaves doubtless the result of some sort of trauma suffered, perhaps in 2004, either from ice or more likely from fisherpeople. The fruit seem to be partially fertilized—perhaps because there's no others nearby for cross-fertilization.

(same location and time). 2006/175/cb, *Lonicera* (Honeysuckle) (plant). 1 shrub, in fruit, specimen. branch from 2 m shrub blackened in both foliage and fruit, though others are in lush red fruit. These are the predominant bushes along the water's edge, along something like 40% of the water's edge.

(same location and time). 2006/175/cc, *Apios americana* (Ground Nut) (plant). 1 vine, in bloom, specimen. densely swathing bushes along water's edge, surface 50% bloom, in dense ruffled clumps. There are 3-4 bushes swathed in this way along 500 m of shore.

moved 0.2 km S.

**W side Oncida L/I81 causeway, 0.4 km NNW I81/Bartell Road.** 43.23511°N 76.13015°W. TIME: 1557. AIR TEMP: 21.5°C, overcast, calm. HABITAT: slab-boulder armoured shore of superhwy causeway through shallow weedy lake. 2006/175/da, *Mikania scandens* (Climbing Boneset). 1 vine, in bloom, specimen. WAYPT/009, 1 plant noted, 50 cm-high mound of fuzzy bloom. There's only one plant along 500 m of shore right at the water's edge, with tufty little flowerheads covering most of the mound.

*\* This vine-composite is one of those amazing uncommon species one never imagined existed!*

(same location and time). 2006/175/db, *Sagittaria cf latifolia* (Broad-leaved Arrowhead). 1/common herb, in fruit, in bloom, specimen. plants all along water's edge, only this with fruit and few blooms. (flowers not collected).

*\* from here, I head north to the gap in the known distribution of Unionid mussels that's revealed by the maps for many species in The Pearly Mussels of New York State (1997. David Strayer and Kurt Jirka. Memoirs of the New York State Museum 26:113pp). You'll notice that my activities don't do anything to diminish the gap: mussels really seem to be scarce in the streams that drain the Tughill Plateau.*

moved 49.8 km N.

*\* my first stop is a stream we visited several times in the mid-1980s . . .*

"The brook runs over a smooth bed between low bars of glacial cobbles and sand. It speaks with the bright rapid sound of shallow riffles as it winds between stones and spreads over bedrock shale. The bottom is velvety with a fine brown sediment, and the current ripples short filaments of pale algae. It flows passed mossy walls of crumbling rock and leaning trees, roofed with cicada song against the leaf-dappled sky. The shade of the tall broadleaf forest prevents heavy algal growth, so the bottom is not slippery under the glass-clear water. Schools of minnows zig-zag through a shallow pool. A Brook Charr hides under a flat rock. Longnose Dace shelter among shingles, and a Sharp-nosed Darter, flexible as a Blenny, with finely black-lined fins, presses itself into shadows among the rocks. Young parr of introduced Coho Salmon and Rainbow Trout flicker and dart on the edge of vision. Under stones are larval *Eurycea* salamanders, juvenile *Cambarus* crayfish, and *Cottus* sculpins."

"The silky shale above the pool is decorated by patches of black dots: the oval, black-horned pupae of blepharicrid net-winged midges. Old faults run diagonally across the brook, catching pebbles and cobbles. In places the layers of rock are paper-thin, like a sloped deck of cards. Elsewhere the water slides over the petrified dimples of a Paleozoic sea floor, or flows among square joints as regular as a sidewalk. Beneath a wall of crumbling shale the brook is fed with ground water falling from curtains of mosses, soaking through algae, and dripping from flat green liverworts. The shale chips and seeping sand below the cliff are insinuated by dusky salamanders, *Desmognathus fuscus* and *D. ochrophaeus*, and penetrated by the burrows of adult *Cambarus bartonii* crayfish. In places the brook cuts into a 1.5 m bank of sand that was so recently deposited that there are blocky-rotten logs embedded in it against the bedrock. Within the decay-time of a log this valley has been flushed full of eroded sand and the present forest has grown up on it." (5 June and 8 August 1987).

*. . . now I'm checking for any evident change in conditions or biota here, though I'm just downstream of the stretch described in 1987.*

USA: New York: Jefferson County: Ellisburg: **Lindsey Creek at Hwys 11/I81 bridge**. 30N/9, 43.68140°N 76.07242°W. TIME: 1720-1805. AIR TEMP: circa 19°C, overcast, calm. HABITAT: shallow shale-bedded stream in ravine at grassy roadside and dual highway overpass. 2006/176/a, visit (event). natural history, walk, wade. WAYPT/010, waypoint at US 11 shoulder at centre of intersection. The stream is so deep under the double underpass that it's invisible from either road—the interstate goes so far overhead to be more like a meteorological than a surface feature. I walked down a grassy slope around the huge northbound bridge pier which is right in the creek where it emerges from the culvert. There's a jam of logs against it which may hold useful drift in the spring. The creek is fairly high, but not flooding.

After the following downstream records—in habitat very similar to the upstream sites we've previously visited—I waded through the 8 m high culvert (bedrock and shallow sediment bottom with flat stones), pushed aside a dangling *Vitis* (grape) veil on the upstream side, and waded upstream to the next record. There are patches of *Tussalago* (Coltsfoot) along the banks. With only been a few square metres of sediment where unionids might reside, finding them here would require a long search. There are lots of stones to turn for crayfish, and burrows under some turned stones that suggest *Cambarus*.

(same location and time). 2006/176/aa, *Phragmites australis* *SUBSPECIES:australis* (Common Reed) (plant). 1 stand herb. bloom, seen. extends between I81 overpasses and down along creek to edge of woods, on the east bank of the downstream extent of the clearing.

(same location and time). 2006/176/ab, *Rana clamitans* (Green Frog) (herp). 1 juvenile, under cover, captured. dark, ca 35 mm juv under flat rock at water's edge.

moved 0.1 km W.

**Lindsey Creek, 0.1 km WNW I81/US 11**. 43.68143°N 76.07391°W. TIME: 1730-1745. AIR TEMP: circa 19°C, overcast, calm. HABITAT: shallow shaded shale-bedded stream in a ravine. 2006/176/ba, *Eurycea bislineata* (Northern Two-lined Salamander) (herp). 1 adult, under cover, captured. WAYPT/011, under 50 x 50 x 4 cm slab, the best rock on the bar.

(same location and time). 2006/176/bb, *Alliaria petiolata* (Garlic Mustard) (plant). 2/few herb, specimen. Big-leaved plants from shaded shore of creek and shingle bar. The first of these was a single plant on a shingle and sand bar with:

LIST: *Eupatorium cf rugosum* (White-snakeroot), codominant in bloom;  
*Arctium* (Burdock), a few sallow plants;  
*Polygonum cf persicaria* (Lady's-thumb), codominant with pinkish flowers;  
*Pilea pumila* (Clearweed), codominant.

Then I found a few similar plants on the other side of the stream, and collected two of them. I wonder how far Garlic Mustard will penetrate into rich cool woods like these?

*\* fear, and local experts, suggest that "these woods are toast," and that nothing will prevent Garlic Mustard from spreading into any forest where it becomes established.*

moved 0.2 km ENE.

**Lindsey Creek, 0.1 km NE I81/US 11.** 43.68178°N 76.07198°W. TIME: 1803.  
AIR TEMP: circa 19°C, overcast, calm. HABITAT: shallow shaded shale-bedded stream in a ravine. 2006/176/ca, *Juglans cinerea* (Butternut) (plant). 1 tree, sprout, seen. WAYPT/012, sprouts along cankered ca 30 cm DBH tree across creek. These are palm-like 30-60 cm sprouts coming out of the trunk of this fallen tree all along the trunk.

(same location and time). 2006/176/cb, *Arctium lappa* (Great Burdock) (plant). common herb, in fruit, seen. the only *Arctium* on slope of ravine.

*\* I'm interested in the idea that this species is replacing Arctium minus (Common Burdock) at many sites. The former motel above the brook here is falling into ruin, but there's an "81/11 Motel" up the road a bit which seems to be prospering.*

moved 3.2 km NNE.

**Skinner Creek/US 11, Mannsville.** 43.71007°N 76.06218°W. TIME: 1809-1818.  
AIR TEMP: circa 17°C, overcast, calm. HABITAT: stream with dam under highway in village; rocky and forested below, small weedy pool above dam. 2006/176/d, visit (event). natural history, wade. WAYPT/013, **NO:Unionidae** seen above or below dam. Mannsville is a village that looks like it's near economic equilibrium. If one were to descend to the round-bouldery stream below the dam there might be a good chance of finding Unionids, but above the dam, near the entrance to Maplewood Cemetery, I waded on a sandy sediment fan and a few metres of shore less brushy than the rest, and then under the bridge to the old dam, and didn't see any.

moved 7.5 km NNE.

**Highway 11/Sandy Creek, 4.0 km SSW Adams (NY 69).** 30N/16, 43.77453°N 76.03664°W. TIME: 1831-1848. AIR TEMP: 16°C, overcast, calm. HABITAT: broad shingle/boulder streams, small-field agriculture. 2006/176/e, *Polygonum cuspidatum* (Japanese Knotweed) (plant). dominant herb, in bloom, seen. WAYPT/014, stands all along shores above bridge, fewer downstream. Confluence of Sandy and Fox Creek is just above the bridge. There's a fair amount of *Tussalago* (Coltsfoot) along the shores. I waded around quite a bit above and below the bridge and saw **NO:Unionidae**—perhaps the myriads of ideal blade-thin skipping stones would make life hard for a Unionid.

*\* Japanese Knotweed, or Bambooweed, spreads vegetatively, and it's common along streams in many parts of New York. It seems not to be as delectably palatable to deer as it is to domestic goats.*

moved 63.9 km N.

The sky had been clearing spectacularly to the north, and a wink of the sun gleaming redly through a western crack in the clouds and wanly pinking the undersides of the pillows of the overcast as I came north towards the river.

Canada: Ontario: Leeds County: **Hill Is boundary bridge, US/Canada border.** 31B/5, 44.34794°N 75.98413°W. TIME: 1910. HABITAT: Canada Customs toll gate. 2006/177/a, *Homo sapiens* (human people) (mammal). adult, male, drive. officer just reached down for identification without asking, but never asked me where I lived, or for documentation of my landed status (he did ask if, when I said "landed immigrant," I meant in Canada) though he did enquire about guns, mace, and pepper spray.

moved 54.2 km NNE. along the Thousand Island Parkway, and up along Butternut Bay, Highway 2, and Lyn Road, rather pointlessly, as it was too dark to see anything, and the simple Hwy 401/North Augusta Road route would have been quicker.

Ontario: Grenville County: Augusta: **4.5 km NNE N. Augusta, Branch Road dogleg.** 31B/13, 44.79762°N 75.72029°W. TIME: 2103. HABITAT: low *Thuja* bush. 2006/177/b, *Erethizon dorsatum* (Porcupine) (mammal). 1 adult, driveby, AOR. large adult stolidly in midroad, requiring an abrupt zigzag to avoid it. **NO: Rana** AOR/DOR on 10 km of Branch Road.

*\* in the last 3 years we've seen 3 porcupines crossing the road here, and one up in a tree nearby, so this seems to be a movement corridor for this species. We survey Branch Road for frog movements to and from the creek from the first emergence of Leopard Frogs in April, to their last straggling into the creek in December.*

moved 5.0 km N.

Wolford: **Bolton Road, 3 km SSW Bishops Mills.** 44.84266°N 75.71578°W.

TIME: 2111. AIR TEMP: 13°C, clear, calm. HABITAT: road through *Thuja* woods and planted Jack Pine barrens. 2006/177/c, **no observation** (event). survey, driveby.

NO: *Lepus americanus* AOR/DOR.

*\* here we are again, and again no hares on the road—still in the low stage of the 10-year cycle.*

moved 3.4 km NNE.

(at home) TIME: 2111. AIR TEMP: 13°C, clear, calm. HABITAT: rural village, shallow soil limestone plain. 2006/177/d, **arrival** (event). natural history, drive. 25% high mackerel clouds.

*\* so a trip by a natural historian isn't just a visit to "point B." The trip journal is natural history, and its accounts include interactions with people and people's interactions with the landscape as well as phenomena commonly called "natural," such as weather and non-human species. It consists of revisits to, and comparisons with, places that have been visited before. Added to discoveries of new localities, these accounts will take their place in the history of trips. They will be baselines for future revisits and comparisons, whether kept together in a narrative, or dispersed to taxonomic or conservation databases.*

*In a trip journal, observations are collected, word pictures preserved as if they were specimens. But if the text of the journal account is preserved, it needs no extra curation, as museum artifacts do. Like specimens, they will be available in the future, part of the precious history that gives our very existence a rich cultural context. Every record is "where we've come from" and whoever is patient enough to record it as it happens, enriches our future.*

*We've recently heard confirmation that the Haida's verbal history preserved accounts of events that occurred along the Pacific coast 13,000 years ago. Even though they didn't know the reason for post-Pleistocene sea level changes, the stories were preserved, and geologists and archaeologists are now using the remembered history to find sunken village sites, and refine their models of Holocene history (Aleta Karstad, 1 September 2007).*

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## Book Launch for the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas

Please join the OFNC, the Canadian Museum of Nature and Mike Cadman of the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas project for the much anticipated launch of the second Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas!

If you have already pre-ordered your atlas, you may pick it up at the launch (and get Mike Cadman to sign it!). For those who have not ordered a copy, books will be available for purchase.

Mike Cadman will discuss the five year project, the highlights, the stories, the adventures, and the production of the atlas.

**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2008

**Time:** 6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

**Location:** Canadian Museum of Nature, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, West Wing, (next to the Bird Gallery)

Refreshments will be provided.

For more information please contact Christine Hanrahan, [vanessa@magma.ca](mailto:vanessa@magma.ca).

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## Reminder: Shade Grown Coffee

If you have attended a monthly meeting lately, you know that the OFNC is selling coffee. This coffee is shade grown and subject to fair trade practices. Buying the coffee supports the conservation of wildlife habitat in many countries for North American wintering birds. Various blends are available at the meetings, but if you are interested in obtaining some, but do not attend the monthly meetings on a regular basis, we would like to hear from you.

If you are interested in buying some (limit of 5 - 340 ml bags per month), then contact [info@ofnc.ca](mailto:info@ofnc.ca) and let us know. We will try to find ways to accommodate those interested.

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# Consider a Water Feature

*John Pratt*

Most of us think of seeds and feeders when we make plans to attract birds to our urban gardens. Feeders from the kindergarten project variety all the way through to NASA-approved "squirrel-proof" models, sprout from every branch and available projection each autumn, and sources of exotic seeds and tantalizing suets are sought out. At the same time each winter that we are pondering the relative merits of silo feeders versus tray feeders, we are probably thinking about how we could improve our perennial borders for next summer. Maybe a nice planting of Bee Balm would get the hummingbirds to visit—and didn't the goldfinches seem to enjoy the fact that we didn't dead-head the coneflowers last fall?

If you plan your garden with birds in mind, I suggest that this winter you consider the addition of a "water feature" next spring. When we bought our house in the Elmvalle neighbourhood of Ottawa, we inherited just such a contraption. My initial assessment was not favourable. There, in the middle of our (also inherited) perennials, stood a three-tiered assemblage of concrete basins, topped off by two cement waifs huddling under a 40-pound umbrella. "Cheesy," I muttered, and made a mental note to dispose of the entire leaf-clogged mess as soon as the ground thawed enough to dislodge it.

But here we are, three years later, and the once-scorned "water feature", having undergone a couple of minor adjustments, is now considered a major attribute by my wife and me, and more importantly, by the local bird community.

It will not come as a surprise to anyone that water is attractive to birds. What might be a bit of a revelation, however, is that even something as tiny as a backyard water feature can be a real bird magnet. Our feature has hosted the predictable House Sparrows and European Starlings, of course, but the list doesn't stop there. In fact, the ever-growing list of visitors is now lengthy enough that I included them below (Table 1). For the amount of effort involved in setting up and maintaining a small water feature, the return to a bird watcher is clearly a handsome one.

Our water feature was originally ornamental, and probably the people who installed it had no expectation that it might attract birds. In truth, it wasn't particularly effective in that regard when we first cleaned the winter debris out of it and set it running. The concrete statuette in the centre dribbled water reluctantly, and the

pump clogged so often that the entire set-up seemed hopeless. Faced with the decision to either haul all that concrete to the curb, or try to get it running properly, I opted for the latter. I haven't regretted the decision.

We modified our feature by removing the statuette (it now graces a dark corner of the garden where it looks distinctly Gothic), and by adding a good filter to the pump so it doesn't clog as much. We also encouraged perennials to grow close to the edges of the little pond, and pruned a small honeysuckle bush so that its branches slightly overhang the water. Finally, we added a bit of aquatic vegetation. A single plant was all that was required, since it grows so quickly and has to be restrained periodically. The results were dramatic and, I am sure if we can do it, so can you.

It isn't difficult to establish an effective water feature in your garden, even if you have a restricted amount of available space. Kits are available that include everything you need, or you can do it yourself with some imagination and a small investment in a few essential components. Here, in my view, are the basics for a successful water feature that will attract a variety of birds over the year.

The first component for your water feature is, of course, something to hold the water. There is no need to recreate Lake Ontario in your back yard. Our water feature is only about three feet in diameter and six or seven inches deep. Even this is not the minimum size for a bird-friendly water feature. You could certainly construct a satisfactory water feature using large flower pots, for example.

What makes a water feature effective is not size alone. Ours is effective because, in my opinion, the water is in constant motion. Moving water gets birds curious. Stop the flow, and the birds lose interest quickly. Just think how rarely you see a bird at those stagnant still-water birdbaths!

A pump for moving the water is the second essential component. Unless you are lucky enough to have a natural water course in your garden, you will need a small circulating pump, which can be run off an outdoor receptacle using an appropriate extension cord. Such pumps can be purchased at most yard and garden supply shops, and there are also a few dedicated water landscaping stores where you can shop.

While the pump is great at getting the water moving, a little "natural" movement is also in order. Our set-up has three tiers, with water being pumped up to the top level from whence it runs down into an intermediate level and then the bottom, larger bowl. The pump outlet is split so that a second line supplies a simple bubbling fountain in the middle of the bottom bowl. This provides ample water movement which attracts birds, keeps the water aerated and healthy, and discourages

mosquitoes. The multiple layers also provides a bit of separation for the birds. This seems to make room for bigger birds, like robins, to use the water at the same time that a flock of sparrows is bathing away.

We have placed flat stones in the deeper bottom bowl so that birds can get into the water comfortably. These stones are set at varying depths, from just under the surface to a depth of about two inches. Without the stones, the water would be too deep for the birds to use it effectively. A shallow pool, on the other hand, is prone to heating up too rapidly.

The third essential component for a successful water feature is a good location. Birds need to feel secure. I suggest that your water feature be incorporated directly into the garden itself, or at the very least, established so that it abuts the garden. Don't set it up on its own in the middle of the lawn unless you are planning to plant some shrubs close to it. The birds using ours move back and forth constantly between the water and the surrounding vegetation. You don't need to plant a jungle. One small honeysuckle bush, pruned judiciously to produce a dense ball, will hide an amazing number of House Sparrows. Remember to put the water feature in a place where you can watch and enjoy it. You should consider indoor vantage points as well. Our water feature can be easily observed from one side, where we keep the plantings quite low, but tall perennials including Echinacea and Bee Balm shelter it at the back. These flowers, with their stout stems, provide hiding places and watching posts. The Bee Balm also attracts hummingbirds—an added bonus! The surrounding plants shade the water, keeping it cool and helping to reduce algal build-up.

While traditional bird baths are usually pedestal-mounted saucers, I think that you will be more successful with a water feature that is constructed close to the ground. The birds that visit our little pond often spend a few moments hiding in the adjacent greenery before hopping into the bath. The modest "in ground" pond is probably more reassuring to ever-cautious songbirds.

Finally, maintenance of your water feature is vital, but easy. Aside from requiring an occasional clean-out, our water feature is surprisingly low-maintenance. We refill it with the garden hose whenever the water level gets low, and once in a while we have to remove the filter material that protects the pump and give it a cleaning. Other than that, there is little to be done. Even a pond that is only six or seven inches deep will establish its own balance of invertebrates and microscopic plant and animal life, and come into a healthy balance—especially if it is shielded from unrelenting direct sunlight. Keep the water feature free of grass clippings and leaf litter. A small pond net is useful for this purpose.

I mentioned mosquitoes earlier. Even with moving water you ought to keep an eye open for mosquito larvae. If you notice them, change the water and consider increasing the water circulation. Be cautious with the use of any additives that might discourage the birds from visiting. Wherever there is a choice, a mechanical (as opposed to chemical) response to mosquito problems is preferable. If you use pesticides or fertilizers on your garden, remember to keep them out of your water feature. Better yet, change the water after you apply anything to your garden that you think might affect the water quality.

With a little planning and a modicum of know-how, you can easily construct and operate a successful water feature in your backyard that will add interest and beauty to the garden, while attracting a nice assortment of birds from early spring right through to freeze-up.

**Table 1. Birds observed at our backyard water feature.**

Rock Pigeon	Brown Thrasher	Song Sparrow
Mourning Dove	European Starling	Lincoln's Sparrow
Downy Woodpecker	Nashville Warbler	Swamp Sparrow
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Yellow Warbler	White-throated Sparrow
Least Flycatcher	Magnolia Warbler	White-crowned Sparrow
Warbling Vireo	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Dark-eyed Junco
Blue Jay	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Northern Cardinal
American Crow	Pine Warbler	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Black-capped Chickadee	Bay-breasted Warbler	Red-winged Blackbird
Red-breasted Nuthatch	American Redstart	Rusty Blackbird
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Common Yellowthroat	Common Grackle
Swainson's Thrush	Wilson's Warbler	Brown-headed Cowbird
Hermit Thrush	American Tree Sparrow	House Finch
American Robin	Chipping Sparrow	American Goldfinch
Gray Catbird	Fox Sparrow	House Sparrow

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## Book Review: Why Don't Woodpeckers Get Headaches?

*Karen McLachlan Hamilton*

One of the benefits of being an editor are the requests to review books. I not only have the opportunity to see what is currently on the market, but I can freely give my opinion on a wide variety of topics. Usually if the topic is something I know nothing about, I will find someone more knowledgeable to do the review; however, this book I could not resist. Not being a birder, the book entitled *Why Don't Woodpeckers Get Headaches?* was definitely not up my alley, but the subtitle *And Other Bird Questions You Know You Wanted to Ask* peaked my curiosity. I think the Pileated Woodpecker and the pile of wood chips on the cover was also too good to pass up.

Mike O'Connor, the author of the book, operates a birding shop in Cape Cod and writes a weekly bird column in the local newspaper, *The Cape Codder*. This book is a collection of the questions he has answered over the years. As he says in his introduction, he spent too much time at the photocopier making copies of old columns and thought that a book made sense. It covers such topics as attracting and feeding birds, birding paraphernalia, and unusual habits and identification issues. The chapters entitled "Information Nobody Should be Without, I Like Birds, but . . ." and "The Off Season" describes the book's quirky style.

I liked the book. I found his off-beat sense of humour made for light reading and the format allowed for easy pick up and put down. I particularly enjoyed the chapter "Mystery Birds Identified and Explained." His introductory paragraph explaining why birders hate the "What bird did I see?" question is something everyone can identify with—and probably something all of us have done.

I also enjoyed the "Information Nobody Should Be Without" section. Here the baby-and-stork issue is addressed and whether to throw rice or not at weddings. I also got a lesson on the spring Thunderbirds, again something all birders should know about.

Since the book is based on the commonly asked questions, avid birders would not find anything new (except maybe the spring bird question). Also it should be no surprise that the focus is on birds found in New England, so some questions are not relevant to our region.

In my opinion, the book is somewhat informative depending on your level of knowledge, but is worth reading just for its entertainment value.

*Why Don't Woodpeckers Get Headaches* is published by Fitzhenry and Whiteside, and sells for \$14.95 Cdn.

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# Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions & Lectures Committee.

For further information,  
call the Club number (613-722-3050).

*Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader. Restricted trips will be open to non-members only after the indicated deadlines.*

**ALL OUTINGS:** *Please bring a lunch on full-day trips and dress according to the weather forecast and activity. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes are essential on all birding trips. Unless otherwise stated, transportation will be by car pool.*

**REGISTERED BUS TRIPS:** *Make your reservation for Club bus excursions by sending a cheque or money order (Payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club) to Box 35069, Westgate P.O., Ottawa, Ontario, K1Z 1A2, at least ten days in advance. Include your name, address, telephone number and the name of the outing. Your cooperation is appreciated by the Committee so that we do not have to wait to the last moment to decide whether a trip should be cancelled due to low registration. In order for the Club to offer a bus trip, we need just over 33 people to register. If fewer than 30 register, we have the option of cancelling the trip or increasing the cost. Such decisions must be done a week in advance so we encourage anyone who is interested in any bus trip to register as early as possible. We also wish to discourage postponing the actual payment of bus fees until the day of the event.*

**EVENTS AT THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE:** *The Club is grateful to the Museum for their cooperation, and thanks the Museum for the use of these excellent facilities. Monthly meetings are held in The Discovery Zone Theatre on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor. Attendees may have to pay \$5 parking per vehicle.*

**BIRD STATUS LINE:** *Phone 613-860-9000 to learn of recent sightings or birding potential in the Ottawa area. To report recent sightings use the 613-860-9000 number and stay on the line. This service is run on behalf of the Birds Committee and is available to members and non-members.*

This heritage building is undergoing preventative maintenance, renovation and emergency repair. The Museum will ensure a safe passage within the building and to and from the parking areas but makes no other warranties as to the esthetic appearance due to construction materials being on hand or structures being erected on the premises (i.e. scaffolding, temporary walls, temporary signage, etc.).

<b>Tuesday</b> <b>15 January</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b> <b>Review of</b> <b>Minutes</b> <b>7:30 p.m.</b> <b>Meeting called to</b> <b>order</b>	<b>OFNC MONTHLY MEETING</b> <b>129<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING</b> <b>Location:</b> Canadian Museum of Nature (VMMB), Metcalfe and McLeod Sts, The Discovery Zone Theatre, 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor. The Council for 2008 will be elected at this meeting. There will be a brief review of the activities in 2007 and a statement of the Club's finances will be given. This is an opportunity to meet most of the Club's executives and the chairs of the various committees and to find out what makes your Club tick. Refreshments will be served.
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<b>Sunday</b> <b>20 January</b> <b>1:30 p.m.</b> <b>to</b> <b>about</b> <b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>VISIT TO THE HERBARIUM, CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE</b> <b>Leader:</b> Jennifer Doubt <b>Meet:</b> Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond at Assaly Road near Pizza Pizza, with Fenja Brodo (or 2:00 p.m. at the CMN Heritage Building on Pink Rd.). The Canadian Museum of Nature's National Herbarium (plant collection) has grown to over one million dried and fluid-preserved specimens since its founding curator, John Macoun, first took responsibility for a few hundred Geological Survey samples in 1882. Each carefully catalogued specimen documents the ideas, discoveries, and hard work—not to mention the exciting adventures—of generations of researchers and explorers. Together, they form an indispensable resource for understanding the natural world, and for decisions contributing to its stewardship. Each new collection makes the resource more powerful—and the meeting place more magical - for scientists, naturalists, students, historians, artists and all the people they serve. Spend an afternoon getting to know your National Herbarium, including a few of the characters that have helped to build it and their fascinating legacies of observation, knowledge, and passion for nature. This event is limited to 14 people. <b>PLEASE REGISTER WITH THE CLUB NUMBER 613-722-3050.</b>
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**Sunday**  
**27 January**  
**2:00 p.m.**  
to  
about  
**4:30 p.m.**

### **KEEPING THE HEAT IN**

**Leader:** Suzanne Deschênes

**Meet:** Fletcher Wildlife Garden Activity Centre, east side of Prince of Wales Drive, south of the traffic circle.

Concerned about your home energy use? Global warming is everyone's concern and OFNC members should be at the forefront of doing as much as possible, personally, to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Spend a couple of hours with someone who deals with residential energy efficiency. Get hints on how to reduce your energy bills. The workshop will look at how a house operates as a system and will take a look at common problems. We will start in the basement and work our way up to the attic. You will also get first hand information on programs offered by the Government of Canada, the provincial government, and utility companies to help you make your home more comfortable on those cold winter days. There will plenty of tips and many information guides to help you out. **PLEASE REGISTER WITH THE CLUB NUMBER 613-722-3050.** (Note: This is a repeat of last year's workshop.)

**Sunday**  
**3 February**  
**9:30 a.m.**  
to  
about 3 p.m.  
(Snow date 10 Feb.)

### **ANIMAL TRACKING IN GATINEAU PARK**

**Leader:** Carolyn Callaghan (819-459-2113) and Christine Wong (613-739-8246)

**Meet:** Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond at Assaly Road near Pizza Pizza (or be at the Gatineau Park Visitors Centre on Scott Road in Old Chelsea at 10 a.m.).

Join Carolyn on an outing as we look for, and may see, some of the tracks of the following species: weasel, wolf, mice, voles, Pine Martin, porcupine, squirrel, moose, and River Otter. We will begin with a short lecture (20 minutes) on animal tracking before we travel by convoy to the destination. The outdoor portion of the trip will last 2.5-3 hours. Bring a lunch and a thermos with a hot drink, and suitable clothing for the weather. A snack to eat while you walk may be helpful if the weather is cold (protein such as cubes of cheese has good warming properties). Dress in layers to allow you to adjust to the cold as we walk along or stop to view and discuss tracks. If the weather is cold, foot warmers and hand warmers are recommended. You can purchase these for a few dollars at most outdoor equipment stores. While snowshoes are recommended, warm boots are an acceptable alternative for walking on the snow. Please bring your animal tracking field guide(s) to enrich your knowledge.

**Tuesday**  
**12 February**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Social**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Speaker**

**OFNC MONTHLY MEETING**  
**LA RIVIÈRE KIPAWA, LANIEL, QC - SHORT,**  
**SWEET AND BREATHTAKING**

**Speaker:** Peter Karwacki

**Location:** Canadian Museum of Nature (VMMB), Metcalfe and McLeod Sts, The Discovery Zone Theatre, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor.

The 16-km long Kipawa River flows down from Lake Kipawa to Lake Temiscaming on the upper Ottawa River in Northwestern Québec. It is both beautiful and virtually pristine, with many sets of rapids and a 90-foot waterfall in an area which is steeped in history and rich natural heritage. This is the traditional territory of the Algonquin First Nations. Early explorers and fur traders camped at the mouth of the Kipawa River as far back as the 1690s. In the 1900s, the Kipawa was made the backdrop for a few popular films such as "The Silent Enemy".

The rapids, once a barrier to exploration and public use, have become an attraction. The Kipawa River, while short, is particularly valuable and should be protected and developed for its tourism and recreation potential but Hydro-Quebec wants to divert the historical and magnificent Kipawa River. Hydro consultants and engineers are making cost/benefit recommendations that marginalize its inherent value as a free flowing natural resource.

**Saturday**  
**16 February**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**to**  
**about**  
**11:00 a.m.**

**BIRDING AT MUD LAKE**

**Leader:** Dave Britton

**Meet:** Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond at Assaly Road near Pizza Pizza. (or 9:15 a.m. at the entrance to the filtration plant at Britannia).

Join Dave for an informal birding walk at one of Ottawa's premier birding spots. Dress in layers to accommodate variable weather conditions.

**Sunday**  
**17 February**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**to about**  
**4:00 p.m.**

### **SNOWSHOE OUTING IN RICHMOND FEN**

**Leader:** Jeff Skevington (613- 832-1970)

**Meet:** Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond at Assaly Road near Pizza Pizza. You will need snowshoes for this outing (they can be rented at most outfitters in town if you don't have your own).

Don't worry if you haven't snowshoed before, this is a flat area and a good place to learn. It is a long snowshoe walk (~8 km total) but relatively easy. It's hard to guess what we will find in here in the winter since few people venture into the fen at this time of year. We should see winter finches, ravens and possibly even some owls. It is about a 45 minute drive to get to Richmond Fen so we will be in the field from about 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Bring a field lunch and expect to be back at the parking lot by 4:00 pm.

**Tuesday**  
**11 March**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Social**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Speaker**

### **OFNC MONTHLY MEETING INSECTS IN MY BACK YARD**

**Speaker:** Henri Goulet

**Location:** Canadian Museum of Nature (VMMB), Metcalfe and McLeod Sts, The Discovery Zone Theatre, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor.

Dr. Goulet, Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada, has taken some remarkable digital photographs of insects in his backyard. He will give a vivid account of some of the more visible "bugs" which form but a small proportion of the insects and related creatures that reside in his garden. We will see the role of dandelions and other "weeds" as providers of pollen and nectar for several important insect predators such as ladybird beetles and lacewings—a convincing argument as to why our natural allies should not be destroyed by herbicides or pesticides!

**Sunday**  
**16 March**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**to**  
**noon**

### **WINTER OUTING TO JACK PINE TRAIL**

**Leader:** Dave Moore

**Meet:** Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond at Assaly Road near Pizza Pizza (or Jack Pine Trail Parking Lot #9 at about 9:15 a.m.).

This is an easy outing for beginners on a lovely trail that is maintained for walkers, even in winter. Our Club stocks a big bird feeder here so we should see several interesting species of birds as well as having the thrill of chickadees and nuthatches taking seeds right out of our hands. There may be animal tracks or other signs of winter activities. Wear comfortable, sturdy, water-repellent shoes and bring sunflower seeds or unsalted peanuts, and binoculars if you have them.

**Sunday**  
**30 March**  
**2:00 p.m.**  
to  
about 5:00 p.m.

### **MINERALOGY WORKSHOP FOR BEGINNERS**

**Leader:** Geof Burbidge

**Location:** Fletcher Wildlife Garden Activity Centre, east side of Prince of Wales Drive, south of the traffic circle. (First in a series of 3 spring geology workshops.) This will be a hands-on workshop on elementary mineral identification. Geoff will provide sample minerals for study. He invites participants to bring a maximum of two of their most noteworthy rock or mineral samples, should time permit. Please bring pencils and a couple of sheets of notepaper, and also a penknife, magnifying glass and a magnet on a string if you have these items. This workshop is limited to 15 participants. **REGISTER WITH THE CLUB NUMBER 613-722-3050.**

**Saturday**  
**5 April**  
**2:00 p.m.**  
to  
about 5:00 p.m.

### **PETROLOGY WORKSHOP FOR BEGINNERS**

**Leader:** Geof Burbidge

**Location:** Fletcher Wildlife Garden Activity Centre, east side of Prince of Wales Drive, south of the traffic circle. (Second in a series of 3 workshops.) This will be a hands-on workshop on basic rock identification. Having learned about minerals, the building-blocks of rocks, at the mineralogy workshop could be helpful, but not essential. Geoff will provide sample rocks for study. He invites participants to bring a maximum of two of their most noteworthy rock samples for identification, should time permit. Please bring pencils and a couple of sheets of notepaper, and also a penknife, magnifying glass and a small magnet on a string if you have these items. This workshop is limited to 15 participants. **REGISTER WITH THE CLUB NUMBER 613-722-3050.**

**Sunday**  
**6 April**  
**6:30 a.m.**  
to  
6:30 p.m.

### **SPRING BIRDING AT PRESQU'ILE**

**Leaders:** Tom Hanrahan and David Britton

**Meet:** Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond at Assaly Road near Pizza Pizza. The Club's traditional spring outing to Presqu'ile Provincial Park offers an ideal opportunity to study the diverse assortment of water fowl that congregate in the surrounding waters during their northward migration. Transportation will be by a comfortable motor coach equipped with washroom. Bring a lunch. We usually stop for a coffee break going and on the return trip home. Dress appropriately for the weather. The cost is \$38 per person and covers entrance fees to Presqu'ile. **REGISTER EARLY;** see the introduction to Coming Events for information.

**Tuesday**  
**8 April**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Social**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Speaker**

**OFNC MONTHLY MEETING**  
**LIVING UNDER THE ICE: DESTRUCTION AND**  
**OPPORTUNITY ON THE POLAR SEAFLOOR**

**Speaker:** Kathy Conlan

**Location:** Canadian Museum of Nature (VMMB), Metcalfe and McLeod Sts, The Discovery Zone Theatre, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor.  
For polar marine life, sea ice is a seasonal platform that can act as insulator, highway, prison, sunscreen, pollutant collector, drinking water, food supply, sanctuary, lake shore, and a plough. Kathy Conlan will give an underwater tour showing how marine life use the sea ice in the Arctic and Antarctic and what are the threats of climate warming. She will show what her research on the ecology of disturbance has demonstrated about polar adaptations. She will reveal new under-ice discoveries that acoustic technology is making possible and show the amazing diversity of life that is within a diver's reach in the Antarctic.

Kathy Conlan is a Research Scientist with the Canadian Museum of Nature and has been diving in the Arctic and Antarctic for over ten years.

**Saturday**  
**12 April**  
**7:30 a.m.**  
**to**  
**about 10:30 a.m.**

**BEGINNER'S BIRD WALK AT MUD LAKE**

**Leader:** Bev McBride

**Meet:** Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot, Richmond at Assaly Road near Pizza Pizza (or about 7:45 a.m. at the Britannia filtration plant entrance).

Join Bev on an informal birding walk in one of Ottawa's premier birding spots.

**Sunday**  
**13 April**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**to**  
**11:00 p.m.**  
**(Rain date Sun**  
**April 20th)**

**BIRDS & AMPHIBIANS AT NIGHT**

**Leader:** Bernie Ladouceur

**Meet:** Tim Hortons, south side of Robertson Rd. (Old Hwy. 7) between the Richmond Rd. turnoff and Moodie Drive in Bells Corners.

Participants have an opportunity to locate and identify nocturnal birds and amphibians such as the Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Eastern Screech Owl, American Woodcock, Common Snipe, Ruffed Grouse, Chorus Frog, Spring Peeper, Wood and Leopard Frogs. Possible areas to visit include Richmond and Munster or other areas south and/or west of Bell's Corners. This outing is limited to 20.

**REGISTER WITH THE CLUB NUMBER**

**613-722-3050 by April 10<sup>th</sup> please.**

Saturday  
19 April  
2:00 p.m.  
to  
about 5:00 p.m.

#### **PALEONTOLOGY WORKSHOP FOR BEGINNERS**

**Leaders:** Chris Hinsperger, Geof Burbidge  
(Last of 3 spring geology workshops.) Chris Hinsperger is owner of the Bonnechere Caves near Eganville, and a keen fossil hunter and collector. He will have on hand some spectacular examples of fossils from the Eganville area. He invites participants to bring a maximum of two of their most noteworthy fossil samples for identification, should time permit. Please bring along a magnifying glass. After this workshop you will not look at fossils in quite the same way ever again. This workshop is limited to 20 participants.  
**PLEASE REGISTER WITH THE CLUB NUMBER 613-722-3050.**

Saturday  
26 April  
7:30 p.m.

#### **OFNC SOIRÉE**

**Meet:** St. Basil's Church, off Maitland, just north of the Queensway.

Lets Party! Come for an evening of fun and celebration at our annual Club event when we honour hard-working OFNC members, creative Macoun Field-Club members, conservation efforts and the teaching of natural history. Artists in all media (including photography) are invited to submit their work for display and for prizes. Once again we shall be having a silent and regular auction and we solicit donations of books and other items relating to natural history. See insert for details. Call Phil Jeffreys (613-721-0139) for information regarding displays or Fenja Brodo (613-723-2054) regarding auction items and other questions.

*DEADLINE: Material intended for the April - June issue must be in the editor's hands by February 2008. Mail your manuscripts to:*

**Karen McLachlan Hamilton,**  
2980 Moodie Drive, Nepean, ON, K2J 4S7  
**H: (613) 838-4943; email: [hamilton@storm.ca](mailto:hamilton@storm.ca)**

#### **ANY ARTICLES FOR TRAIL & LANDSCAPE?**

Have you been on an interesting field trip or made some unusual observations? Write up your thoughts and send them to Trail & Landscape. We accept email, diskettes and CDs, or submissions in traditional form- typed, written, or printed.

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